



BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM,
KENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

TOGETHER WITH

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A. GIBBS,
COWPER ROAD AND CANTERBURY STREET,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT
OF THE
GILLINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
1913.

HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL, 1913-1914.

Chairman : Councillor A. W. TAPP, C.C.

Alderman T. HOLMES, J.P.,

Councillors :

W. R. ADAMS,

J. BATE,

G. A. BLAKWELL,

A. M. DAVENPORT,

G. W. W. DOUGHTY,

G. H. FIELDGATE,

J. E. FREATHY,

H. J. HEPWORTH,

W. A. HUTTON,

H. F. KNOWLDEN,

LT. W. H. MAY, R.N.,

E. NAYLOR,

W. NELSON,

G. PRICE,

T. G. SIMONS,

A. W. TAPP, C.C.,

F. G. THORNTON,

and

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman W. H. GRIFFIN, J.P.)

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health—

E. C. WARREN, L.R.C.S., L.S.A.L.

Sanitary Inspector—

DAVID L. BALL, A.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors—

JAMES ARNOLD,

CHARLES WHITE, A.R.S.I.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL:

Matron—

MISS E. M. BANNER.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GARDINER STREET,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.
February, 1914.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1913.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Gillingham.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present to you my report on the health of the Borough of Gillingham for the year ending 1913.

The year in question has been one of great progress and activity in consequence of the many and varied orders and circulars issued by the Local Government Board, and also the inspection of house property, infectious diseases, and circulars under the Tuberculosis Order.

In submitting this report I must pay tribute to the loyalty and thoroughness with which all the officials connected with the Public Health Department apply themselves to the work entrusted to them, and also wish to return thanks to the remainder of the officials of the Corporation for their co-operation in any business connected with the welfare of the town and inhabitants at large.

The geological formation of our district is made up of part loam and part gravel with a subsoil of chalk and brick earth, the chief crops being wheat, barley and potatoes.

As to the social status of the district, the largest part of our population comprises those of the Navy, Army and skilled artizan ; the dockyard is the mainspring that employs such a large number of our population, the work being good and wages regular tends to make the Borough prosperous ; again, the large number of men and families connected with the corps of Royal Engineers, Naval Barracks, and Royal Naval Hospital, are all a source of revenue to the town.

The cases in the district requiring Hospital treatment are sent to St. Bartholomew's, situated at the New Road, Rochester, a hospital thoroughly up-to-date, and one that deserves all the support that can be given to it, as without such an institution many a poor person would have to suffer, as their means for medical attention would be insufficient to meet the demands on their purse ; for cases requiring Poor Law relief their officials are always ready and willing to investigate their claims and bring them to the notice of the Guardians ; also the Infirmary is thoroughly well fitted up for the sick, and one part is specially utilized for the treatment of those suffering from tuberculosis of all forms, having out-door balconies and the latest methods of treatment in the fresh air.

STATISTICS.

The area covered by the Borough is in acres :—

Gillingham Civil Parish —Land	..	..	..	4 474
„ „ „ Inland Water	..	..	..	71
Lidsing „ „ Land	..	..	..	443
				<hr/>
				4,988
				<hr/>
Gillingham Civil Parish—Tidal Water	..	..	..	912
„ „ „ Foreshore	..	..	..	1,391
				<hr/>
				2,303
				<hr/>

making a total of 7,291 acres.

I will now show the population^{as} given by the census of each ten years, these compared show the rapid increase in reference to number of inhabitants.

Population by census 1881 was	..	..	20,513
„ „ 1891 was	..	..	27,823
„ „ 1901 was	..	..	42,520
„ „ 1911 was	..	..	52,252

I estimate the population to middle of 1913 from number of inhabited houses, and from different methods of calculation to be 54,072, and on this figure I am about to estimate the rates in reference to births and deaths.

BIRTHS.

The number of these registered locally including those at the Medway Infirmary, was 1,265, of which 615 are males and 650 are females ; as mentioned last year, we now receive information from the Registrar-General through the County Medical Officer, in reference to births being transferred either from the district or into it, which gives correct number, from this I am able to estimate the birth rate for the year ; after correction I make the number of births to be 1,223, which will give a birth rate of 22.6 per thousand as against 23.1 for previous year, reckoning the population as 54,072.

Of this number there are 23 illegitimate births. The natural increase in population or excess of births over deaths will be 661.

Number of births registered :—

Year		Males		Females		Per 1000 Estimated Population		Total
1909	..	730	..	701	..	27.1	..	1,451
1910	..	706	..	646	..	25.1	..	1,352
1911	..	636	..	624	..	23.6	..	1,234
1912	..	658	..	582	..	23.1	..	1,240
1913	..	593	..	630	..	22.6	..	1,223

It is evident taking the records of various towns that the birth-rate is diminishing, but not amongst the poorer classes, but those of moderate or abundant means ; in other words, those who have not the means to rear them well have too many children, and those who can, have too few children, thus we have to feed the necessitous ones and those of moderate means ; but those with small families have to contribute to the upkeep of the ones whose earnings are not sufficient to properly bring them up.

Table showing details of births by Registrar :—

Month	Males		Females		Medway Union				Illegitimate				Total
					Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
January	57	..	65	..	0	..	0	..	1	..	3	..	126
February	42	..	46	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	2	..	90
March	59	..	42	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	101
April	50	..	56	..	2	..	0	..	3	..	0	..	111
May	43	..	61	..	0	..	0	..	1	..	0	..	105
June	36	..	75	..	2	..	0	..	3	..	2	..	118
July	60	..	41	..	0	..	1	..	0	..	1	..	103
August	56	..	41	..	0	..	1	..	0	..	1	..	99
September	40	..	47	..	0	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	91
October	63	..	49	..	0	..	1	..	0	..	1	..	114
November	49	..	45	..	0	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	98
December	45	..	60	..	0	..	3	..	1	..	0	..	109
	600	..	628	..	4	..	10	..	11	..	12	..	1265

The number of births for the past ten years is as follows :—

Total births registered in 1903	..	..	..	1,390
„ „ 1904	..	..	..	1,355
„ „ 1905	..	..	..	1,485
„ „ 1906	..	..	..	1,352
„ „ 1907	..	..	..	1,318
„ „ 1908	..	..	..	1,375
„ „ 1909	..	..	..	1,451
„ „ 1910	..	..	..	1,370
„ „ 1911	..	..	..	1,234
„ „ 1912	..	..	..	1,240
„ „ 1913	..	..	..	1,223

And the birth rate for the same years :—

Per 1,000 population in 1903	..	..	..	30.9
„ „ 1904	..	..	..	28.0
„ „ 1905	..	..	..	29.3
„ „ 1906	..	..	..	26.9
„ „ 1907	..	..	..	26.6
„ „ 1908	..	..	..	26.5
„ „ 1909	..	..	..	27.1
„ „ 1910	..	..	..	25.5
„ „ 1911	..	..	..	23.6
„ „ 1912	..	..	..	23.1
„ „ 1913	..	..	..	22.6

DEATHS.

During the year 1903 there were registered in the Borough 563 deaths as compared with 549 in 1912, this will make a gross death rate of 10.3 per thousand ; through the returns sent to the County Medical Officer by the Registrar General and then on to me, I am in a position to make accurate returns as to those cases which belong to other districts, and those that should come to us and be reckoned as belonging to our numbers. Of the deaths recorded, 141 occurred in public institutions, such as Medway Infirmary, Naval and Military Hospitals and St. Bartholomews. After correcting the inward and outward transfers I find the number to be 561, which does not alter the percentage of deaths.

The details of deaths for the various months are as follows :—

Month	Males				Females				Total	
	Under 5 years		Over 5 years		Under 5 years		Over 5 years			
January	8	..	22	..	4	..	20	..	54
February	6	..	24	..	1	..	20	..	51
March	4	..	34	..	5	..	15	..	58
		—		—		—		—		—
		18		80		10		55		163
		—		—		—		—		—
April	5	..	22	..	4	..	24	..	55
May	6	..	23	..	8	..	24	..	61
June	5	..	8	..	5	..	14	..	32
		—		—		—		—		—
		16		53		17		62		148
		—		—		—		—		—
July	3	..	16	..	1	..	10	..	30
August	4	..	21	..	4	..	13	..	42
September	..	7	..	15	..	3	..	18	..	43
		—		—		—		—		—
		14		52		8		41		115
		—		—		—		—		—
October	6	..	20	..	2	..	14	..	42
November	..	8	..	25	..	5	..	9	..	47
December	..	10	..	20	..	4	..	14	..	48
		—		—		—		—		—
		24		65		11		37		137
		—		—		—		—		—

For the various quarters those dying in the several institutions in and around the district were as follows :—

	St. Bart's. Hospital		Infirmary		Naval and Military Hospital		Infectious Hospital		Total
March 31st ..	10	..	12	..	14	..	1	..	37
June 30th ..	8	..	14	..	14	..	2	..	38
September 30th	6	..	8	..	19	..	3	..	36
December 31st	8	..	6	..	15	..	1	..	30
	32		40		62		7		141

The following tables show the number of deaths and the death-rate for several years that have occurred in the Borough, and also the death-rate for England and Wales.

Year	Population		Number of deaths registered	Death Rate per 1000 Population		Death Rate for England and Wales	
1903	..	44,850	..	481	..	10.7	.. 15.4
	With Institutions			567	..	12.6	
1904	..	48,245	..	538	..	11.1	.. 16.2
	619	..	12.8	
1905	..	49,600	..	528	..	10.6	.. 15.2
	559	..	12.0	
1906	..	50,140	..	495	..	9.8	.. 15.4
	564	..	11.2	
1907	..	49,505	..	489	..	9.8	.. 15.0
	558	..	11.2	
1908	..	51,755	..	521	..	10.2	.. 14.7
	585	..	11.3	
1909	..	53,485	..	452	..	8.4	.. 14.5
	518	..	9.7	
1910	..	53,675	..	439	..	8.1	.. 13.4
	511	..	9.5	
1911	..	52,252	..	635	..	12.1	.. 15.5
	658	..	12.5	
1912	..	53,511	..	549	..	10.2	.. 13.3
	Corrected Number			534	..	9.9	
1913	..	54,072	..	563	..	10.3	.. 13.4
	561	..	10.3	

Of special diseases that have occurred during the year I will now show a table, and compare the figures with those of previous years.

	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	Inc. or Decrease
Cancer and Malignant Disease	32	.. 44	.. 40	.. 31	.. 52	.. +21
Old Age	30	.. 46	.. 39	.. 35	.. 43	.. + 8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	42	.. 46	.. 43	.. 48	.. 50	.. + 2
Prematurity and Dying at Birth	21	.. 16	.. 22	.. 20	.. 28	.. + 8
Heart Disease	41	.. 43	.. 37	.. 34	.. 45	.. +11
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Embolism, Thrombosis and Apoplexy	20	.. 26	.. 36	.. 19	.. 24	.. + 5
Pneumonia	17	.. 7	.. 13	.. 35	.. 34	.. — 1
Bronchitis	46	.. 43	.. 52	.. 41	.. 30	.. —11
Kidney and Bladder disease	16	.. 17	.. 20	.. 25	.. 25	..
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	16	.. 7	.. 15	.. 11	.. 14	.. + 3
Whooping Cough	1	.. 23	.. 17	.. 12	.. 1	.. —11
Diarrhoea and Enteritis..	7	.. 4	.. 71	.. 4	.. 7	.. + 3
Measles	0	.. 0	.. 31	.. 0	.. 1	.. + 1
Scarlet Fever	3	.. 0	.. 1	.. 5	.. 2	.. — 3
Enteric Fever	2	.. 4	.. 5	.. 1	.. 6	.. + 5
Diphtheria	9	.. 5	.. 9	.. 19	.. 7	.. —12

In perusing the tables of the ninety-six largest English towns for the last quarter of 1913 I find the annual rate per thousand living to be as follows :

Birth Rate		Death Rate		Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age to 1000 births
24.1	..	14.2	..	125.0

The highest birth-rates are 33.5, 30.9 and 30.3, and the lowest, 14.3 and 14.1.

The highest death-rates are 19.1 and 18.7, and the lowest 7.9, 8.9, 9.2 ; ours being 10.3.

TABLE I.

GILLINGHAM DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.†		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1'000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	..	1375		26.5	521	10.2			111	2.3	521	10.2
1909	..	1451		27.1	452	8.4			100	68.9	452	8.4
1910	..	1370		25.5	511	9.6			107	79.0	511	9.6
1911	..	1299	1234	23.6	658	12.5	52	29	139	112.0	635	12.1
1912	..	1299	1240	23.1	549	10.2	39	24	94	75.8	534	9.9
1913	..	1265	1223	22.6	563	10.3	24	26	92	75.2	561	10.3

† “Transferable Deaths” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales die in a district other than that in which they resided. The deaths of persons without fixed or usual residence, *e.g.*, casuals, must not be included in Columns 8 or 9, except in certain instances under 3 (b) below. The Medical Officer of Health will state in Column 8 the number of transferable deaths of “non-residents”, which are to be deducted, and will state in Column 9 the number of deaths of “residents” registered outside the district which are to be added in calculating the nett death-rate of his district.

The following special cases arise as to Transferable Deaths:—

- (1) Persons dying in Institutions for the sick or infirm, such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses, and nursing homes (but not alms-houses) must be regarded as residents of the district in which they had a fixed or usual residence at the time of admission. If the person dying in an Institution had no fixed residence at the time of admission, the death is not transferable. If the patient has been directly transferred from one such Institution to another, the death is transferable to the district of residence at the time of admission to the first Institution.
- (2) The deaths of infants born and dying within a year of birth in an Institution to which the mother was admitted for her confinement should be referred to the district of fixed or usual residence of the parent.
- (3) Deaths from Violence are to be referred (a) to the district of residence, under the general rule; (b) if this district is unknown or the deceased had no fixed abode, to the district where the accident occurred if known; (c) failing this, to the district where death occurred, if known; and (d) failing this, to the district where the body was found.

Area in District in acres (land and inland water) } 4,988

Total population at all ages, 52,252 } At Census
 Number of inhabited houses, 10,237 } of 1911,
 Average number of persons per house, 4½ } (cf. Census, Vol. V.

TABLE II.

GILLINGHAM DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.	TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Age†—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
†Cholera (C) Plague (P)										
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1	33	108	7	6					
Erysipelas	155		3	8	12	6				
Scarlet fever	32	62	144	11	6					
Typhus fever	223									
Enteric Fever										
†Relapsing fever (R). Continued Fever (C).	4		1	1	2					
Puerperal fever										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1				1					
Poliomyelitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1		1							
Other forms of Tuberculosis										
§										
Totals	416	95	257	27	27	6	3	179		179

NOTES.—State in space below the name and position within or without the district of the isolation hospital or hospitals, sanatoria or other institutions to which the residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, have usually been sent, and the name of the authority by whom the hospital is provided.

§ This space may be used for record of other diseases the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

* Specify the disease by initial against the figure.

† The figures should take account of any corrections made as a result of error in notification or revision of diagnosis as a result of the further course of the disease (cf. para. (3) on p. 3 of the Weekly Summary of Cases of Infectious Diseases).

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Canterbury Street, Alexandra Hospital, Wigmore (Small Pox).

TABLE III. GILLINGHAM DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

[illegible]

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This really means the ratio of the number of deaths of infants under twelve months of age to every one thousand births during the year; it varies much, depending on so many various conditions, and is influenced very largely by the hygienic conditions prevalent in the district. During the past five years the deaths have been: 1909, 68.9; 1910, 79.0; 1911, 112.0; 1912, 75.8; and the present year 1913, it was 75.2; it is worthy of notice that efficient health conditions of life in any town, as regards medical attention, removal of house refuse, efficient cleansing of sewers and flushing of street gullies is of the greatest importance. Due supervision of Midwives and Health Visitors or trained nurses whose duty should be to call at the houses and give advice in reference to feeding, cleanliness, and advantages of fresh air, especially to the young and inexperienced mothers, and also report as to those children who are sent home in a condition unfit to be in the midst of other pupils, because it is in very many cases the dirty surroundings as regards beds and bedding and cleansing of the rooms that has the tendency to keep the children still dirty, and therefore close attention is required. While the Sanitary Inspectors and Health Department do follow up as far as lies in their power the various cases, yet they are not fitted to give advice to a mother as a Health Visitor could; they could also assist in giving due notice to the authority where they find the houses are in an unsanitary condition and where overcrowding is taking place; it also seems to me that much very valuable information might be given to the elder girls in elementary schools before they leave, in management of household duties, and also as to the care and attention to their offspring; it being quoted that a mother knows by instinct to care for her infant, that, in many cases, has not been my experience, but as a rule she requires much advice and practical instruction concerning the care of her child, especially in reference to proper and kind of clothing, hours of sleep, time to feed and proper class of food necessary at different ages; sleeping accommodation, in a separate cradle or cot, especially not in the bed with parents, as one has so frequently to read about child's death from suffocation, also the amount of fresh air and sunlight necessary for the proper rearing, and the saving of the one infant leads to a greater result, that of the saving of many more,

as when good results from the example of the first infant, the mother becomes more competent to follow the same lines for succeeding ones. A disease which is very prevalent in a hot, dry summer is that of Infantile Gastritis and Enteritis; this requires very careful nursing and feeding, especially the latter, while during wet seasons it is not nearly so prevalent, as the amount of water that falls thoroughly flushes gutters and gullies, carrying all stagnant matter with it, so the necessity of, as before spoken, thorough cleansing during summer months, as in crowded streets and courts infants sit on pavements and so inhale dust and germs of decaying matter, which is such a frequent cause of the above diseases, while the Health Visitors before spoken of are giving advice about the younger generation; they can also instruct the mother as to what is suitable for her; during the suckling period due attention must be paid to her health; for every mother should undoubtedly give her infant what nature has so bountifully provided for the first twelve months, unless there is some very strong reason for her not doing so, and not to be tempted by the various and glowing advertisements as to the numerous patented foods that are on the market, as by so doing stomach troubles are easily started and not remedied without causing unnecessary pain and discomfort to the child; again, one has to remember that the food provided by nature is of the proper temperature, in a sterile condition and the strength suitable for the delicately formed stomach and intestines; crying is so often thought the sign for giving more nourishment, in many cases it means that too much has been given and cannot be properly digested. Another item that is worthy of attention is that milk especially, in fact, all food, should be protected from flies, as much deleterious matter is deposited by them and thus germs swallowed that are harmful; all collection of refuse should be removed as soon as possible and material that is capable of being burnt should be at once, and the receptacle for holding the house-refuse should be of a suitable material and certainly have a properly fitting cover, as otherwise the dust blows about the yard and street, and children are apt to play with the contents, and dogs also turn over and upset the vessel.

TABLE IV.

GILLINGHAM DISTRICT.*Infant Morality.*

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under One year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	Certified	87									
	Uncertified	5					3	2			
Small-pox											
Chicken-pox											
Measles											
Scarlet fever											
Whooping-cough										1	1
Diphtheria and Croup									1		1
Erysipelas											
Tuberculous Meningitis											
Abdominal Tuberculosis											
Other Tuberculous Diseases										1	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..		1				1		2			3
Convulsions		1	1			2	2	2	1		7
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis							1	1			2
Pneumonia (all forms)							3	5		1	9
Diarrhœa								1	2	1	4
Enteritis		1			1	2		1	1		4
Gastritis			1			1	1				2
Syphilis		1				1	1				2
Rickets											
Suffocation, overlying								1			1
Injury at birth		1				1					1
Atelectasis		2				2					2
Congenital Malformations		1				1	1				2
Premature Birth		23	2	1	1	27	1				28
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..		9				9	2	2		1	14
Other Causes		2				2		4	2		8
		42	4	1	2	49	12	19	7	5	92

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 1,200 ; illegitimate 23 ; Total, 1,223.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants, 88 ; illegitimate infants, 4.

The following is a return giving particulars of Inquests held by the County Coroner :—

Cause.					Age.
1.	Accident—Concussion of Brain and Shock	..			86 years.
2.	Accident—Cerebral Hæmorrhage	..	..		13 hours.
3.	Accident—Fractured Femur	..	..	..	73 years.
4.	Heat Apoplexy	..	..	..	46 „
5.	Drowned	..	..	..	24 „
6.	Accident—Fractured Skull	..	..	..	50 „
7.	Accident—Fractured Skull	..	..	..	57 „
8.	Accident—Burns	..	..	..	32 „
9.	Accident—Fall from Train	..	..	..	24 „
10.	Accident—Fractured Spine	..	..	..	24 „
11.	Accident—Scalds	..	..	..	4 months.
12.	Accident—Fractured Skull	..	..	..	60 years.
13.	Brain Congestion from Heat	..	..	..	7 „
14.	Accident—Drowning	..	..	..	34 „
15.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	38 „
16.	Pneumonia and Empyema under an Anæsthetic for an operation	..	..	..	34 „
17.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	4 months.
18.	Shock from use of zinc powder and lead to procure abortion	..	..	..	32 years.
19.	Syncope—distended stomach	..	..	..	58 „
20.	Syncope—poisoning, introduced for procuring abortion				31 „
21.	Suicide (by Gas)	..	..	..	29 „
22.	Suicide (with Spirits of Salts)	..	..	..	18 „
23.	Suicide (by passing train)	..	..	..	63 „
24.	Septicæmia from an abrasion	..	..	..	16 „
25.	Suicide (Coal gas poisoning)	..	..	..	33 „
26.	Accident—(found dead in bed by mother)..	..			5 months.
27.	Accident—fractured base of skull	..	..		68 years.
28.	Accident—Scalds—boiling water	..	..		3 „
29.	Heart Failure from dilated stomach	..	..		42 „
30.	Cardiac Failure at exercise in gymnasium	..	..		20 „
31.	Shock from wounds and Fractured Ribs	..	..		47 „
32.	Accident—Paralysis from Fractured Spine	..			33 „

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS, 1913.

		Sex.		Age.		Cause of Death as Registered.
1.	..	Male	..	3 months	..	Convulsions.
2.	..	Female	..	1 month		Convulsions.
3.	..	Female	..	1 month		Convulsions.
4.	..	Male	..	5 months	..	Convulsions
5.	..	Male	..	63 years	..	Heart Disease.
6.	..	Male	..	52 years	..	Hepatic Congestion
7.	..	Female	..	57 years	..	Heart Failure.
8.	..	Male	..	2 months	..	Pneumonia.
9.	..	Female	..	79 years	..	Senile Decay
10.	..	Female	..	81 years	..	Senile Decay
11.	..	Male	..	80 years	..	Senile Decay
12.	..	Female	..	69 years	..	Bronchitis.
13.	..	Female	..	76 years	..	Senile Decay
14.	..	Female	..	75 years	..	Senile Decay
15.	..	Female	..	53 years	..	Paralysis
16.	..	Female	..	40 years	..	Heart Failure.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Particulars will now be given of the diseases under the above heading which have been notified during the year 1913, and also the deaths occurring from the same.

DEATHS.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	2
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	6
Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	7
Measles	..	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoea (including Enteritis)			..	..	9
					—
					26
					—

DEATHS.

The number of deaths from these diseases for 1912 was 41, and in 1911 134, so that this number is below those years ; it is accounted for by the reduced number of deaths from Diphtheria, and also the deaths from Diarrhoea were but few ; according to the population this will give a zymotic death rate of .4 per thousand ; as compared with other years it is as follows :—

For the year 1904	.	..	.	2.5 per thousand.
„ „ 1905	..	..	..	1.7 „
„ „ 1906	..	..	..	1.7 „
„ „ 1907	..	..	..	.8 „
„ „ 1908	..	..	..	1.1 „
„ „ 1909	..	..	..	.4 „
„ „ 1910	..	..	..	.4 „
„ „ 1911	..	..	..	2.5 „
„ „ 1912	..	..	..	.7 „
„ „ 1913	..	..	..	.4 „

The deaths from infectious diseases are now shown for the first five years :—

Disease.	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Scarlet Fever	3 ..	3 ..	0 ..	1 ..	5 ..	2
Measles	4 ..	0 ..	0 ..	31 ..	0 ..	1
Small Pox	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
Diphtheria	9 ..	9 ..	5 ..	9 ..	19 ..	7
Whooping Cough	17 ..	1 ..	23 ..	17 ..	12 ..	1
Typhus Fever	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
Enteric Fever	12 ..	2 ..	0 ..	5 ..	1 ..	6
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	17 ..	7 ..	4 ..	71 ..	4 ..	9
	62 ..	22 ..	32 ..	134 ..	41 ..	26

And for the different quarters during the year 1913 the following were notified :—

Nature of Infectious Disease.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
Small Pox	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
Diphtheria	27 ..	21 ..	39 ..	68 ..	155
Membranous Croup	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
Erysipelas	11 ..	9 ..	4 ..	8 ..	32
Scarlet Fever	53 ..	30 ..	59 ..	81 ..	223
Enteric Fever	2 ..	0 ..	0 ..	2 ..	4
Typhus Fever ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
Puerperal Fever ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	1
	93 ..	60 ..	102 ..	161 ..	416

Scarlet Fever has been again this year very prevalent, but not in such big numbers as last year, and from the number notified to me, there have been but two deaths, which I think confirms the opinion I expressed last year that the type is much milder than in past years; there is no doubt that it is this mildness which makes it so difficult to control, and thus the parents see no necessity to keep the children

from school, and it is in this initial stage that the infection is greatest, in fact, the temperature is so little above normal that they are going about with the rash, thus not consulting a medical man, and nothing more is noticed until the peeling takes place, which is the marked symptom one has to rely upon, but undoubtedly there is a symptom not recognised by those in charge, which is most important, that is the discharge from either ear or nose, and I have often to detain this class of case much longer in Hospital, as one sent home in that condition would infect a whole household, and also the class at school. I should think that from the large numbers we have had during the past two years, a very large number of the susceptible children should have now had the disease, and so be exempted. I must re-echo what I said last year, that more suitable accommodation for doubtful cases and a proper block able to be set apart for discharge cases at our Infectious Hospital is absolutely necessary; also children crowding together in amusement halls is a very possible source of infection.

The following shows the number of Scarlet Fever cases which have been notified, sent to Hospital, and deaths of same for several years.

Year.		No. Notified.		To Hospital.		Deaths.
1902	..	73	..	28	..	1
1903	..	129	..	59	..	2
1904	..	99	..	36	..	2
1905	..	121	..	34	..	2
1906	..	382	..	182	..	10
1907	..	151	..	88	..	3
1908	..	131	..	60	..	3
1909	..	79	..	48	..	3
1910	..	39	..	29	..	0
1911	..	86	..	57	..	1
1912	..	357	..	148	..	5
1913	..	223	..	95	..	2

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of this disease notified during the year was 155 as against 171 for the previous year. Much attention has been given to endeavour to stamp it out, but, with every precaution and warning given, it is a very difficult matter to control the disease; that also is the experience of other Medical Officers of Health, as they have told me it will seem to run its course. Pens and pencils in

Schools being placed by the children in their mouths is a strong factor in transmitting the disease. In all reported cases a large number are removed to the Isolation Hospital, and there kept under treatment until two negative swabs have been obtained, and in several cases without this bacteriological examination it would be difficult to say that they are safe to mix with others, as to all appearances they are in a normal condition but the bacilli are still present in the throat. Also, the houses are inspected, enquiries made as to contacts, food supply, school attended, and due advice given so that the disease may not be spread, rooms and clothing disinfected, and all other children excluded for a fortnight. I have noticed in this disease, as well as Scarlet Fever, that the largest majority suffer with enlarged tonsils, which appeals to me as a very striking lesson for parents, so that when the doctor at school inspection advises attention to the throat it should be immediately carried out. Anti-toxin is supplied free for the poorer inhabitants at any time when the doctor attending thinks it necessary, and the County Laboratory is always available for any bacteriological work.

The following is a table of Diphtheria, showing notified cases, those sent to Hospital and deaths from same.

Year.		No. Notified.		To Hospital,		Deaths.
1902	..	140	..	43	..	25
1903	..	78	..	39	..	11
1904	..	89	..	23	..	6
1905	..	52	..	19	..	9
1906	..	29	..	14	..	1
1907	..	23	..	10	..	Nil.
1908	..	55	..	21	..	9
1909	..	48	..	27	..	9
1910	..	36	..	20	..	5
1911	..	121	..	80	..	9
1912	..	171	..	73	..	19
1913	..	155	..	84	..	7

SMALL POX.

From this disease we have had no visit and trust it may be a long time before it shows itself amongst us. At Wigmore we possess a hospital known as the Alexandra which is for the reception of such cases

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease is one that, as a rule, affects a large number of children of school age, and we are no exception to other places, but it has not been so prevalent with us this year, and there has been but one death notified as against twelve for the preceding year, but these cases often develop a Bronchitis or Pneumonia, so that it is difficult to always classify them ; from school department I find that there were but a few away from the Schools for the disease.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

Not having a very hot, dry summer as in some previous years, the number of these cases are not numerous and the deaths but few, the number being nine ; this is very marked when there is a fair amount of rain to cleanse gutters and gullies, and thus wash away all decaying matter that collects ; during the winter-time the disease is not much to the front ; and as from instructions issued by the Local Government Board in reference to stable manure, decaying vegetable matter, which is in close proximity to dwelling houses, I always issue special instructions to the Sanitary Inspectors to give this matter more attention during the hot summer months. One of the worst pests in connection with manure stored and decaying is the fly. In the hot summer of 1911 there were 71 deaths, while in 1912, when there was more wet, there were but 4 ; for these diseases constant medical attention and skilled nursing are the essentials for proper treatment, and in summer, when the temperature is high, many young lives could be saved could they but have Hospital attention and skilled nursing.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There have been but few cases of this disease in the district, four only were notified, and these not of a severe character ; there were some cases in the Naval Hospital and it was in there that the deaths took place. None of the notified cases were removed to our Isolation Hospital.

The following table gives the notified cases and the deaths :—

Year.		No. Notified.		Deaths.
1900	..	31	..	3
1901	..	16	..	4
1902	..	12	..	2
1903	..	54	..	8
1904	..	38	..	5
1905	..	23	..	2
1906	..	43	..	10
1907	..	51	..	11
1908	..	47	..	12
1909	..	24	..	3
1910	..	13	..	4
1911	..	17	..	5
1912	..	13	..	1
1913	..	4	..	6

Five of these died in the Royal Naval Hospital and one at St. Williams, Rochester, although belonging to our locality, and therefore were not notified to me, no deaths took place from the ones notified to me by civil practitioners in our own borough.

MEASLES.

The total number of deaths from this disease was but one, although from the records of the schools so far as can be ascertained, from teachers and parents there have been between two and three hundred cases, but having no Health Visitor in the town it is impossible to verify the particulars sent in. It is unfortunate that a disease which is so fatal to the young is still regarded by many parents as an ailment which requires little attention, whereas early medical treatment and skilled nursing in the first stages would lessen the fatal effects and complications which do so often occur ; for the best control of the disease the parents must be depended on, it being so highly infectious before the disease has actually shown itself, and the time which passes between contracting the disease and the time that the rash makes its appearance, combine to make measles a difficult problem to the person who has the control of the Public Health Department, and it is only by the education of the parent when the disease is prevalent, showing the necessity of keeping the child away from mixing with other children, that much good will be done, but it is hoped that as elder children in our schools are taught the elementary rules of hygiene, so good will come from the rising generation ; here again the Health Visitor becomes a prominent helper

in teaching the parents, especially as one notices such a small proportion have a natural immunity against the disease, not more than ten per cent.

POLIOMYELITIS.

I had one case of this disease notified to me during the year, and a special report was sent to the Local Government Board, which is as follows :—

“ I beg to state that a case of Poliomyelitis has occurred in a detached house on the Rainham Road in the Borough of Gillingham, in a boy named Brown, aged 9 years ; I have visited the house and made full enquiries, but was not able to gather very much satisfactory information. The parents say the boy had been in the wet, became feverish, slight sore throat, and they thought he had taken a chill. The doctor was called in and noticed that paralysis developed within thirty-six hours, and he then diagnosed the above malady, and after a few days had him removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where the boy is still an in-patient, and he informs me that at present he has not improved, only that his superficial reflexes are returning ; he also informs me that lumbar puncture has not been done to verify diagnosis ; he tells me that five other cases have been under his care, but scattered ; they belong to Sittingbourne for sanitary purposes, and the Medical Officer of Health for that part, Dr. Heggs, is investigating them. The boy that was reported to me had not been in contact with any of them, I therefore have no history to guide me as to the origin of the case. All the medical men in my district have received due notice and full instructions as to reporting all cases, and also that the County Laboratory is open at any time for examination of cerebro-spinal fluid, and other pathological material. The house has been thoroughly disinfected and surveyed.”

DISEASES OF A TUBERCULAR ORIGIN.

These include those that attack various organs and parts of the human system ; that which is most prevalent is that which attacks the lungs and known as Pulmonary Tuberculosis, “ Consumption.” On January 1st, 1912, all cases of this class became compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health ; up to that date all cases occurring under Poor Law medical administration and all cases

treated at voluntary hospitals and institutions were notifiable, but the general compulsory order supplemented the system of notification. This order caused at the time some anxiety, it being feared that it would be disadvantageous to the patient, but he was safeguarded, as the notification was regarded as a private communication from the medical attendant to the Medical Officer of Health and everything is done to ensure privacy and to avoid inconvenience to the patient.

It is important to know that an early case who shares neither living room nor bed-room with other persons is not a danger to the community, and it is here where the notification becomes useful, as the case can then be visited, and due instruction given, but, unfortunately, in houses of the middle and poorer classes they have not the necessary rooms for thus isolating, and when suffering in the latter stages the disease is highly infective and patient has to live in same rooms with other people, the Health Department can exercise supervision, as the influence is very largely of an educational character, and the patient can be trained to reduce the probability of infecting others ; and it is this class of cases that should be admitted to an Institution for special treatment and education ; the Poor Law authorities are doing much good in that direction, and the special dispensaries are also of immense benefit, the officers attached to same are specially skilled and the suitable cases are thus put under the Tuberculin injection, and so far as I am able to judge from the published reports, much good has been done from this treatment. I now beg to give the numbers that have been notified to me during the year, namely 221, and I will now classify them, show the distribution in the different parts of the system : the largest number is connected with the lungs and is 149, with 53 deaths, giving a death-rate for consumption .9 per thousand.

The following gives the ages at death of cases of Phthisis :

1911.													
1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 to 65.	Total.						
1	.. 3	.. 9	.. 13	.. 10	.. 4	.. 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
1912.													
1	.. 2	.. 7	.. 10	.. 16	.. 11	.. 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
1913.													
1	.. 1	.. 11	.. 17	.. 8	.. 4	.. 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	53

Following on this there were 42 cases notified as suffering from some glandular trouble, 10 from joint mischief, 17 from tuberculosis in various parts, as face, meninges, throat, ovary, thorax, and intestines, while there were 3 in the spine.

All houses where deaths take place, or removals, we disinfect rooms, etc., and also provide spit bottles and disinfectant fluid all free to the patients.

There are several points of interest which I consider should be brought to the notice of those who, unfortunately, are suffering from any form of Tuberculosis ; rooms should be well cleaned, airy, well lighted, sunlight most important, and thoroughly ventilated, both by day and night ; fresh air most important, therefore spend as much time as possible in the open ; good food and sufficient, also at regular times and avoid indulgence in alcoholic liquors and debilitating habits, cleanliness of body and warm clothing ; do not neglect ordinary colds ; dust holds infection, therefore regular and thorough cleansing, moist sweeping and damp dusting ; if possible, do not sleep in same room as a consumptive, and never in same bed, germs being so infective ; never cough or expectorate but into a suitable vessel or rag which can be burnt, disinfectant in vessel and thoroughly cleanse with boiling water ; never swallow phlegm ; never tax the strength by overwork, unsuitable exercise, long hours or excesses of any kind ; especially do not kiss or be kissed on the lips.

CANCER OR MALIGNANT DISEASE.

The deaths from this disease were during 1913 52, which gives a death-rate of .9 per thousand of population ; of this number 12 were in persons of 65 and over, 29 between the ages of 45 and 65, and 11 between 15 and 45 years ; the number of deaths is more than last year and there is a tendency for a rise in a number of these cases throughout the country ; many theories have been brought forward to account for the rise in number of cases, but none are of a very satisfactory character ; the theory of infectivity has received consideration, and there is a possibility that it slowly infects, that is, from patients to healthy persons, and in homes where people die from cancer and when I have a knowledge of some, I send and have disinfection thoroughly carried out.

The following table gives the particulars of the age and sex of this disease.

	Male.	Ages.	Female.	Ages.
Liver	1	61	3	61-56-61
Generative Organs	1	44	4	39-35-51-58
Stomach	5	39-49-69-50-63	2	85-87
Throat	1	49		
Intestines	3	65-50-32	3	62-75-59
Œsophagus	1	49	1	31
Breast			5	44-51-40-61-55
Tongue	3	59-46-56	1	82
Rectum	3	52-18-37	2	66-46
Pharynx	1	61		
Larynx	2	54-51	1	67
Appendix			1	63
Thyroid Gland	1	48		
Lip	1	75		
Unclassified	2	62-65	1	15
Gall bladder			1	71
Mammæ			1	76
Face	1	64		
	26		26	Total 52

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This Hospital, which is for patients suffering from infectious diseases, viz., Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, gives the advantage of medical treatment and nursing which, in so many cases, in small and inadequate houses for isolation, cannot be properly carried out ; while there is such intimate connection with the School Medical Service and Health Department, the great value of prompt isolation is most apparent, because as soon as a case is notified and removal requested, immediate supervision takes place in regard to the children and those who have been in contact ; the Hospital Nurse, who has charge of the removal, obtains all facts that are necessary, in reference to history of case, previous illness, etc. ; the Sanitary Inspector then takes the house in hand, disinfects, gives all necessary instructions, tests drains, ascertains source of milk supply, school attended by the children in house and endeavours to trace source of infection, after which school teachers receive immediate notice, and notice also sent on to parents giving them full information as to length of quarantine, and also not to send them back to school without appearing at office to receive a clearance note.

During the year there were admitted into the Hospital for

treatment 179 patients, viz., 84 Diphtheria and 95 Scarlet Fever, of whom 7 died, representing a case mortality of 4.1 per cent.

During the year we have had two new corrugated iron rooms fitted up for the maids, and the discharge block that was has had to be utilised for night-nurses, as the accommodation in the old buildings was insufficient, and being so close to wards it was impossible for them to obtain the rest that was absolutely necessary for properly carrying on the duty ; the number of cases applying for admission has at times been more than we could accommodate, and there have been a fair proportion of chronic cases, for example, on the Scarlet Fever side, those of Otorrhœa and Rheuitis, and I am fully convinced that the old match-boarded iron corrugated buildings which have been in existence for close on twenty years are germ impregnated and should be taken down and scrapped ; another difficulty is that there is not room to immediately separate those cases, as they are most infectious, and one case will at times start off a large number in a ward of children who are recovering without any complications ; again, the construction makes it difficult to separate grown patients from young children, and at times causes complaints from parents, especially where they see a man in a ward where little girls have to sleep ; and as there have been a larger number of Diphtheria cases than usual, the Enteric wards have had to be filled with those cases, and so many of these have had positive reactions for many weeks longer than usual, as a result of the swabs sent to the Bacteriological Laboratory which means longer detention and so stops the taking in of cases requiring hospital treatment ; also there have been several cases of cross infection such as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, necessitating a ward being taken up by one patient and a nurse attached thereto. The bedrooms for the day nurses being so adjacent to the wards prevents them obtaining due rest, especially when there are bad cases and much crying during the night ; and again, the dining room, which has been such a source of trouble to warm, and also barely furnished that it cannot be so often used as a sitting-room as is desirable, these circumstances do not tend to help us in procuring the best nurses for our patients, not contented after being engaged and seen the state of affairs.

I consider the Health Committee should at once give their serious consideration to remodelling the present institution, or proceed with some building worthy of carrying on the important work of treating infectious cases in the most approved style ; this unsatisfactory

condition makes it very uphill work for any matron attached to such an institution, and she has to exercise a very large amount of tact to carry on all in a manner satisfactory to the Council nurses, and also to the parents that visit their children ; to the outbuildings such as laundry and mortuary, they require as much attention as the other parts, the laundry being especially inadequate for the work necessary in a hospital the size of ours.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

These are very fully set out in the report presented by the Inspectors, and I venture to say the Council will be pleased to read such a comprehensive statement of the work carried out in the Borough. I consider they are all working with one aim to improve the housing conditions, the sanitary arrangements, the inspection of food of all sorts that is consumed, the various nuisances connected with the numerous trades that are carried on, so that the Borough may be one of the most satisfactory in the county.

I personally am keenly alive to assist in all matters that require my advice and attention, and I always, when on my round make calls especially in milk sellers' premises. Speaking about milk, finding our regulations were not up to the standard of excellence, I consulted the Health Committee and they have agreed to the new ones submitted for their perusal, which are now being printed, and will be distributed to all who sell milk, and they will help me to show the vendors what it is necessary for them to do before granting the licence ; at the same time I make periodical visits with the Veterinary Surgeon to see the condition of the cows, and that the sheds and milking arrangements are receiving proper attention. I also make personal visits to butchers' shops, and establishments where cooked food of all sorts is sold ; the same applies to bake-houses ; there are but two underground ones. The registered slaughter-houses are much improved since the careful inspection, and the work that was carried out to make them as far as their condition would allow in an up-to-date condition. What I am trusting, when the laws are so framed, is to see a Public Abattoir, where the proper supervision and inspection of all meat killed in the district can be properly done ; at present it being impossible with so many slaughter-houses, and killing at such varied and odd times. The licences have to be renewed each year so that we are able to show the

butchers the necessity of keeping the premises in a thoroughly sanitary condition. Vendors of petroleum are also visited ; it is also necessary for them to obtain a licence from the local collector of Customs and Excise where the quantity sold at one time to one person exceeds a pint.

I feel it my duty to call the attention of the Council to the unsuitable position of our mortuary, the accommodation and arrangements are out of date, and although it has been useful in the past it is absolutely necessary that for respect for the dead, to the medical men that have to make post mortems, and also the jury and friends that have to visit, that the matter receive immediate attention. I brought this forward in my last report.

The new Building Bye-laws are receiving due attention by the Works Committee, and I trust they may soon be completed, there being several matters that should be immediately put in force.

The outlying parts of the district are receiving due attention ; I refer to the Grange, Hempstead, Lidsing and Wigmore. Inspections are made and advice given to those who are living there to take advantage of the water which has been laid in by the Water Company, and I hope no plans will be passed until due provision is made for water to be laid on. Temporary buildings also have to be well looked after, and I recommended the Council to have bills printed and posted up showing the Act in full, that they must submit plans to the Council for approval before putting up any erection.

The House Collection is carried on as in other years. A contractor supplies horses and carts and drivers, while the Council men accompany them, and so the work is carried out, the refuse being taken to a tip by the river-side and adjacent to the Sewage Works. The collection is three times a week, so that there is no excuse for householders to store any decaying or offensive matter. I am trusting that we shall soon see the refuse placed in more suitable covered vessels outside the house, instead of the varied unsanitary articles that are now used.

I will now give the rainfall for the past five years which I venture to think will be of interest. These returns are very kindly sent to me by Mr. W. Coles Finch, the Resident Engineer at Waterworks House, Luton. It is from that spot that the water supplying the whole district comes, it is one of the purest, and but for its hardness, most suitable for domestic use.

RAINFALL IN 1909.

Diameter of funnel, 5 feet.

Rain gauge above ground, 3 feet.

Height of top above sea level, 88 feet.

	Total depth. Inches.		Greatest fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which .01 or more fell.
January	.76	..	.16—14th	..	13
February	.89	..	.25—10th	..	10
March	3.32	..	.62—3rd	..	25
April	1.60	..	.45—19th	..	11
May	1.10	..	.35—16th	..	6
June	2.72	..	.55—3rd	..	16
July	3.48	..	.50—27th	..	17
August	2.22	..	.70—24th	..	10
September	3.10	..	.65—22nd	..	19
October	3.90	..	1.13—26th	..	29
November	1.08	..	.36—15th	..	9
December	3.13	..	.54—2nd	..	19
	—				—
	27.30				177
	—				—

RAINFALL in 1910.

	Total depth. Inches.		Greatest fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which .01 or more fell.
January	2.50	..	.60—27th	..	15
February	3.20	..	.62—20th	..	23
March	1.48	..	.75—9th	..	6
April	1.68	..	.22—13th	..	18
May	2.90	..	.61—28th	..	19
June	2.44	..	.59—9th	..	14
July	2.80	..	.42—5th	..	15
August	2.39	..	.54—29th	..	16
September	.80	..	.61—13th	..	7
October	1.81	..	.43—31st	..	14
November	4.06	..	1.18—30th	..	16
December	3.61	..	.80—1st	..	22
	—				—
	29.62				185
	—				—

RAINFALL in 1911.

	Total depth Inches		Greatest fall in 24 hours		No. of days on which '01 or more fell
January	1.05	..	.24—6th	..	12
February	1.10	..	.25—27th	..	11
March	2.46	..	.64—12th	..	18
April	2.04	..	.86—1st	..	11
May	.87	..	.38—13th	..	5
June	1.83	..	.83—23rd	..	12
July	.38	..	.33—29th	..	2
August	.95	..	.44—22nd	..	5
September	1.24	..	.63—13th	..	7
October	4.60	..	.96—7th	..	15
November	4.51	..	1.00—17th	..	17
December	4.41	..	.64—20th	..	23
	25.44				138

RAINFALL in 1912.

	Total depth Inches		Greatest fall in 24 hours		No. of days on which '01 or more fell
January	2.65	..	.57—23rd	..	15
February	1.24	..	.32—3rd	..	17
March	2.96	..	.48—4th	..	19
April	.02	..	.01—1st	..	2
May	.86	..	.23—15th	..	11
June	2.81	..	.96—7th	..	16
July	1.13	..	.18—19th	..	15
August	4.20	..	.86—25th	..	29
September	2.35	..	1.26—30th	..	7
October	2.60	..	.50—1st	..	14
November	2.02	..	.48—26th	..	17
December	2.54	..	.67—26th	..	19
	25.38				181

RAINFALL in 1913.

	Total depth Inches		Greatest fall in 24 hours		No. of days on which '01 or more fell
January	3.32	..	.49—13th	..	18
February	.69	..	.23—1st	..	8
March	2.30	..	.32—23rd	..	22
April	2.79	..	.40—29th	..	18
May	1.38	..	.49—27th	..	7
June	.30	..	.12—25th	..	9
July	2.40	..	.46—14th	..	15
August	1.05	..	.41—31st	..	11
September	1.60	..	.64—5th	..	10
October	4.14	..	1.11—26th	..	16
November	3.57	..	.93—12th	..	17
December	.87	..	.38—23rd	..	8
	<hr/> 24.41 <hr/>				<hr/> 159 <hr/>

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Referring to these premises I beg to state that they have all received careful attention by the Inspectors, especially as to their sanitary conditions, cleanliness, and special attention is given to the condition of outworkers' premises, as to their fitness for clothing to be brought home ; receiving full particulars as to notifiable diseases ; they, viz., the inspectors, are at once able to give advice, disinfect and do what is necessary so that infection from that source may not be carried ; air space, ventilation, also efficient drainage, W.C. and Urinal accommodation are also points that have to receive special attention. Everything in connection with these Acts is fully shown, tabulated, and spoken about in Sanitary Inspector's report.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Speaking about the sewerage and drainage of the district, the main drainage which has now been in good working order for about fifteen years, and all cesspools and privies except those in the country area, have been closed and in the great majority of cases filled in ; at the end of the year the number of houses connected to the sewer was 10,036. The situation of our town, which is suitable for carrying away all this sewage, is by gravitation, the fall being towards the river, and there are situated the tanks where precipitation takes place, and treatment is with lime and alumino-ferric,

after which the effluent passes into the river ; what remains as sludge is pressed and so used as manure for farms in the country. We always have men ready to attend to stoppages in any of the pipes, and so, to the best of our ability prevent overflowing of sewage or offensive matters in or around dwellings or yards.

The various courts and alleys which are being continually concreted, are thus able to be swept and flushed, and so prevent any collection of foul or refuse matter, which I consider is a great boon to the town, and an example to all householders and especially the younger generation to encourage cleanliness ; and in all cases where necessity arises we see that back yards are properly paved and good fall given, preventing water from lying in pools around the habitation. As to the interiors of living houses, there are many cases where tenants are much to blame for the dirty and unwholesome condition that they are so often found in, scrubbing is much neglected, the breaking of wall plaster and tearing down paper, with foul collections in cellars, are amongst some of the items which tenants do not give due attention to.

One of our main difficulties at present is that there are many people with large families and small incomes which are being displaced by the pulling down of unhealthy houses ; and there are none at present with suitable rents for them to occupy, and so there are cases where there are more people than should be, thus causing overcrowding. One of the present difficulties in connection with this improvement is that house property cannot be built of a suitable character at a rental suitable to poor folks' pockets, and yet pay a proper return on money thus invested. The example of careful attention to improving house property is showing many landlords how necessary to do what is required before we step in ; this is in many cases of great assistance to our work, and we are always pleased to consult and give advice in any case brought to the notice of our department.

In reference to the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, which is the Act under which we work in a large number of cases, all full details are given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, by which it is easy to see what demolitions have taken place, and what improvements are carried out, as under Section 17, although we may issue a closing order the landlord has a perfect right, if so inclined, to spend sufficient money to put houses in a habitable condition by submitting schemes to the Council.

I visit cases where Tuberculosis is notified to me, and give advice as to general conditions and endeavour to point out the main reasons why every possible precaution should be taken, so as to prevent any other member of the family contracting the disease, but also the house is inspected and conditions such as dampness, especially in bedrooms, ventilation and cleanliness receive special attention.

In reading the report of the Sanitary Inspector a full and detailed account is given of the number of notices sent out from the department ; in reference to nuisances of all sorts, and I can say with every confidence that with our present staff they are kept fully busy, especially when one remembers that after the various notices are served, many visits have to be made to see that the work is carried out in a satisfactory manner, and also test drains that have been newly laid ; then again, after infectious cases are removed houses have to be disinfected, and thorough inspection made at the premises, which very often takes a good part of the day. The due cleanliness of animals kept in the gardens and also see that they are not too close to the house has to receive attention.

The various urinals attached to licensed premises have all been surveyed, and in a very large number of cases notices are being served on the owners to remedy the defects which have been found, and also put on water for flushing purposes. I consider no urinal sanitary without this means of so cleansing. The urinals erected by the Council are in a very satisfactory condition, and I trust before long to see more placed in different parts of the town, and I certainly think that provision for ladies should be made in some.

In speaking about vaccination I might state that from the figures kindly sent to me by Mr. H. E. Stigant, who is the Vaccination Officer, there were 688 successful cases and 527 declarations of objection, as against 741 for the former and 408 of the latter for the previous year.

The Queen's Nurses, who have now been with us for many years, are always to the front in relieving cases requiring trained nursing, and giving advice in reference to those who call upon them for so many matters that can only be given by those skilled in the art, and practically showing them how to make poultices, dress burns, wounds, bandage, and impress upon them the utility of fresh air, cleansing their homes, etc.

The County Laboratory at Maidstone is still doing useful work ; it has been enlarged and fitted up for all the general work of the

County, such as swabs for Diphtheria, blood for Widal's test in Typhoid Fever, sputum in cases of Tuberculosis, hair in cases of Ringworm, cerebro-spinal fluid from Meningitis and Poliomyelitis, bacteriological examination of water and milk is also undertaken ; poisoning from food, and the bacteriological examination of infectious ophthalmias, pus, pleuritic fluid, urine, glands, fæces, air, soils, sewage and sewage effluents, specimens in cases of suspected anthrax in human beings, and in animals when the possibility of infection of human beings is anticipated.

Outfits for collecting and forwarding such materials may be obtained on application from the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned, or from the County Medical Officer, Sessions House, Maidstone.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. C. WARREN,

Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (8)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	64	3	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	189	12	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	37	9	
Total	290	24	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	R'm'di'd. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	21	21		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary {insufficient	5	5		
Accommodation {unsuitable or defective	3	3		
{not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts : —</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total	30	30		

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, Section 107.			OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE- SOME PREMISES. Section 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES. Sections 109, 110.		
	Lists received from Employers.								
	Sending twice in the year. Lists.	Outworkers.		Instances.	Notice Served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Order made (S. 110).	Prosecutions Sections 109, 110.
		Contractors.	Workmen.						
Wearing Ap- parel : mak- ing, etc.	14	6	382	44	44		10	10	

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.

Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Dressmakers	34	Engineers & Founders	1
	Milliners	14	Wheelwrights & Coach	
	Tailors	16	Builders	5
	Bakers	13	Cycle & Motor Works	6
	Confectioners ..	3	Cabinet Makers ..	3
	Joiners & Carpenters	18	Boot repairing ..	4
	Masons	2	Photographers ..	6
	Artificial Stone Makers	2	Pickle Manufacture ..	1
	Plumbers, Decorators	8	Laundries	5
	Blacksmiths ..	10		
	Total number of Workshops 152			

In addition to the above Workshops the undermentioned premises come within the definition of Factories.

Bricks.. ..	2	Electric Light ..	1
Joinery	6	Gas Works	1
Window Blind Maker	1	Boots	7
Fire Wood	4	Tailoring	1
Printing	6	Laundry	1
Book binding ..	1	Forage	1
Motor	2	Bread	3
Cycle Makers ..	3	Sausage Makers ..	4
Boiler Makers ..	1	Silver Smiths ..	1
Coach Makers ..	2	Milk, Pasteurising ..	3
Coach & Foundry ..	1	Shirt and Collar ..	1
Total number of Factories on Register ..52			

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. 1	Number. 2
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133, 1901)	3
Action taken in matters referred by { Notified by H.M. Inspector	7
H.M. Inspector as remediable under { Reports of action the Public Health Acts, but not under { taken) sent to H.M. the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5 1901) { Inspector	7
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :	
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at end of the year	2

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1913.

SIRS,

I have the honour of submitting to you for your consideration the annual report of works executed and duties performed in Sanitary matters for your district as required by the Public Health Acts and the Local Government Board, also a detailed report of the inspections and work carried out by your Inspectors under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

During the year the following notices have been served :—

723 Preliminary notices under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

200 Statutory or legal notices under Section 94, 1875.

18 Statutory or legal notices under Section 36, 1875.

13 Statutory or legal notices under Section 39 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

9 Statutory or legal notices under Section 43 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

23 Statutory or legal notices under Section 49 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

50 Statutory or legal notices under the Town Improvements Clauses Acts, 1847.

The number of Statutory notices served during the year under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875, is much above the average, and works out at about 27.6 per cent. of the total ; this I consider is due to the enormous demands made by the Health Department on the owners of property to place the premises in a sanitary condition and fit for habitation ; it also indicates that the work is well kept in hand.

The Committee will readily see that when notices are served involving the expenditure of large sums of money, the owners will postpone the work as long as possible, hence the necessity of serving the final notices.

Permission was given by the Council to take proceedings against the owners of 30 houses upon whom the final notices had been served but had not been complied with ; I am glad to state that this was not necessary, a letter having been sent to the persons concerned informing them of the Council's decision had the desired effect.

Appended is a list containing details of various nuisances found and abated under the supervision of your officials :—

Rain water spouting provided or repaired	160
Rain water cisterns cleansed	5
Roofs repaired and made water-tight	105
External walls protected from dampness	84
Stairs, doors and frames, flooring repaired or renewed	213
Sashes and frames, sash lines, repaired or renewed	99
Ventilation provided under floors	10
Damp-proof course provided under walls	36
New ceilings provided	27
Walls and ceilings, repaired and cleansed	508
Yards repaved or paving repaired	201
Dangerous party fences repaired and made safe ..	20
Overcrowding abated	13
Smoke nuisances abated	11
Stagnant water in cellars remedied	24
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired or replaced by new ones	44
Dangerous chimney stacks repaired and made safe	28
Fire grates repaired or renewed	51
External brickwork of houses repointed	112
Water supply pipes defective	44
Water closets rebuilt in 9-in. brickwork	34
Additional water-closets constructed	7
Rebuilding back additions	18
W.C. pans cleansed by tenants	78
Filthy yards cleansed by tenants	29
Filthy houses cleansed by tenants	34
Fore courts paved	38
Cellars paved with cement concrete	98
Cellar steps, walls and foundations repaired ..	67
Animals removed from the rear of dwelling houses	240
Houses supplied with a separate water supply ..	7

DRAINAGE DEFECTS.

Drains cleared by owners	76
Drains repaired or relaid with water-tight joints ..	117
Drains ventilated, vent shafts repaired or raised ..	39
Inspection chambers constructed	28
Waste and rain-water pipes disconnected from sewer	9
Soil pipes ventilated	6
New W.C. pans provided	54
Water closets ventilated	25
Water closet fittings repaired	44
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s	17
Waste pipes provided, repaired or trapped ..	50
Glazed stone ware sinks provided in place of insani- tary sinks	212
New glazed stone-ware sinks provided where there were no sinks	23
Yards drained	18
Stables connected to sewer	5
Houses connected to sewer	6
Manure pits constructed	7
Disused cesspools filled in	7
Privies repaired	4
Privies filled in and made safe	4
Sewage percolating into basements	19
Subsidiary drains or sewers cleared by Health Department	1,307
Subsidiary drains or sewers repaired by Works Department	9
Inspection chambers, vent shafts, air inlets, repaired by Works Department	27
Inspection chamber covers and frames provided and fixed by Works Department	24
Privies emptied and cleansed by Health Department	71
Cesspools emptied and cleansed by Health Department	227

OFFENSIVE MATTER.

Manure removed (loads)	..	..	..	..	19
Refuse	„	..	..	..	8

The Committee will notice the number of cellars which have been concreted, this I consider is most essential to the health of the tenants.

It is a well known fact that chalk will hold some 16 per cent. of its weight in water, therefore it is easy to see that large volumes of ground air and moisture are held in its pores, this dampness is drawn up into the dwellings by means of the varying temperature of the atmosphere and by the action of fires, and it is quite possible that the prevalence of so much sickness may be due to this cause.

It has been stated on high authority that it takes several years before animal and vegetable matter becomes innocuous, therefore the Committee should consider the question of enforcing that the site on which any dwelling house is erected should be covered with cement concrete so as to avoid the possibility of any danger arising from the above cause.

Attention was drawn to this matter in the Yearly Report of 1911.

In addition I may mention that the system of constructing cellars with 9-in. solid walls ought to be discontinued unless the external surface is covered with a vertical damp-proof course, either of asphalte or slate, this is a precaution which is very necessary.

It has been found on inspection that a very large number of cellars in the district are extremely damp, the surface water finding its way through the earth, or through the joints of the paving, and penetrating through the brickwork into the cellar; this would be avoided if the above recommendations were carried out. It would all add to the health and comfort of the inhabitants of your Borough.

One may also mention the large number of glazed stone-ware sinks being provided in place of the old-fashioned and defective cement or stone sinks, which after a time get full of holes and very badly worn, and are consequently a nuisance and a danger to health, owing to the amount of water held by the material; great improvements have been made in this way.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

DWELLING HOUSES.—During the year 5,695 inspections and re-inspections of houses were made whilst the works specified to be carried out were in progress. This entails a vast amount of work on the part of your officials.

Owners of property are beginning to understand the value of informing your Inspectors when various repairs are in hand, this is not only a safeguard as far as the owner is concerned, but is also very helpful to the officials, as we are in most cases able to report that the repairs have been carried out according to notice and in a workmanlike manner.

889 drains were tested, of which 199 or 22.3 per cent. were found to be defective.

In the majority of these cases the chemical test was used, the water or hydraulic test being forbidden by the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, unless permission can be obtained from the owner; but in the case of new drains, or drains which have been relaid, the water test is applied, thus securing the most satisfactory results.

COMPLAINTS.—221 complaints as to alleged nuisances were received during the year, these were carefully investigated, and where nuisances were found to exist the necessary steps were taken, the number of complaints received indicate that the inhabitants are being educated to understand and value sanitary conditions.

There are several houses in the district without sufficient W.C. accommodation, but this matter is receiving the attention of the Health Department.

A large number of houses reported upon were in such a state that it was considered advisable to inspect them under the Housing and Town Planning Act, with a result that Closing Orders were issued and the houses demolished, others are gradually being brought into line.

It would be rather hard on the owners of property to enforce provision *re* W.C. accommodation, seeing that in a short time, the possibility is that the property will come under the same Act.

Several complaints have been received owing to the action of the Council enforcing the drainage of several houses, and then after a short time order their demolition; this we try to avoid. When your

officials are of the opinion that the premises will be inspected with a view of its demolition we do not think it advisable to ask for repairs to be carried out or to compel the erection of an additional lavatory, etc. On the other hand, when property can be made habitable this necessary provision is enforced.

This line of action, will, I am sure, meet with the approval of the Council.

COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is carried out under the supervision of the Health Department, and during the year the approximate number of loads of refuse collected amounted to 11,871 loads, taking the weight of one load at 22 cwts., the total weight collected equals 13,058 tons.

The cost of this collection amounted approximately to £1,600 ; this works out at about 2s. 5½d. per ton of refuse collected.

An improvement may be expected in the near future by the provision of a suitable receptacle for house refuse which the Council are going to enforce under their new Bye-laws.

The Committee might take into consideration the necessity of enforcing the provision of a galvanized iron dust bin for all new houses.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

A tabulated statement of the inspections and work carried out under this Act has been prepared and submitted to your Medical Officer of Health.

There were 382 names of persons sent to the Health Department from various firms as Outworkers under the Act.

In my last report I mentioned that owing to the late appointment of an additional Inspector, time was not found to visit the whole of the Outworkers, but this year I am pleased to report that in each case inspection has been made, with a result that 44 or 11.5 per cent. were found to be working in insanitary dwellings, the necessary notices requiring the abatement of the several nuisances found were immediately served and complied with, thus enabling the Outworkers to carry on their employment under sanitary conditions.

In addition there were 253 visits paid to Factories and Workshops in 5 cases W.C. accommodation was found to be insufficient ; this has been remedied by the construction of the necessary lavatory accommodation and several other improvements have been carried out.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These premises are very often inspected, and your Inspectors have received instructions that when on their daily survey, they are to visit as often as possible and to endeavour to be present at time of slaughtering ; this is very important. It is by frequent inspection that we hope to prevent the possibility of any animal being used for food which is not up to the standard required.

The hours of slaughtering vary considerably, and it often takes place on Sunday. If it were possible to limit the hours of slaughtering or restrict same to certain days it would be a great help to the Health Department, one would then know when and where to visit.

The most effective remedy is the provision of a Public Abattoir, which, unfortunately, is not compulsory, but in my opinion most desirable.

FOOD.

The following articles of food have been seized or surrendered during the year.

Carcase of Beef	1	Tubercular.
Joints (two briskets)	2	Tubercular.
Joints, odd pieces	173 lbs.	Bruised.
Beef suet.	31 lbs.	Blue and green mould.
Livers	2	Tubercular.
Head (Pig)	1	Tubercular.
Head (Ox)	1	Tubercular.
Tongue (Ox)	1	Tubercular.
Rabbits	24	Decomposition had set in.
Fish	3 cwts.	Ditto.
Potatoes	44 bushels	Ditto.

I would like to point out that when food of any description has been purchased by a local tradesman from a wholesale firm, the food being found to be unsound, the local tradesman may obtain advice from the Health Department, and, if after examination, the food is found to be unfit for the food of man, provided it is examined soon after delivery, the food, etc., may be surrendered and a certificate given to this effect, but where food is exposed, deposited or prepared for sale and the same being unsound, seizure takes place, and the food taken to a magistrate to be condemned.

Advice on any article of food purchased can always be obtained, and it would be as well to make known the elementary rules in judging joints or pieces of meat.

Good and healthy butchers' meat is firm and elastic to the touch, moist but not wet ; if well fed, marbled in appearance, from small layers of fat, except in the case of Veal and Pork, the meat should be of a bright red colour, the fat should be firm and free from blood-stains ; if putrefaction has commenced the meat is soft, pale and generally offensive ; a clean skewer or knife thrust into the meat and rapidly withdrawn will indicate the condition of the meat.

Kernels or Glands are found embedded in the fat, these if healthy should be smooth and pale grey in colour, free from stains and not enlarged ; if found full of yellowish matter, or of a hard or gritty substance, the joint should be immediately brought to the Health Department for inspection.

SHOPS ACT.

During the year 1,284 visits have been paid to various shops. Closing Orders have been made for the half-day holiday on the following trades :—

Boot and Shoe Merchants.

Butcher.

Chemist.

China and Glass Merchant.

Coal and Wood Merchant.

Draper and Milliner.

Furniture Dealer.

Grocer.

Ironmonger.

Leather Merchant.

Music Dealer.

Oil and Colour Merchant.

Pawnbroker.

Photographer.

Picture Frame Maker.

Stationer and Bookseller.

Tailor and Outfitter.

Dealer in Toys, etc.

Watchmaker and Jeweller.

The following trades petitioned the Council and were successful in obtaining a Closing Order with hours as set out hereunder :—

Draper and Milliner.
 Boot and Shoe Merchant.
 Tailor and Outfitter.
 Ironmonger.
 Pawnbroker.
 Furniture Dealer.
 Stationer and Bookseller.
 Watchmaker and Jeweller.

<i>Day of Week.</i>							<i>Closing Hour.</i>
Monday	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 p.m.
Tuesday	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 p.m.
Wednesday,	weekly half-holiday, shops close at						1 p.m.
Thursday		..	..	..	..	..	8 p.m.
Friday	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 p.m.
Saturday		..	..	..	..	..	10 p.m.

The benefits obtained by these orders are greatly appreciated, both by the Shopkeepers and the Assistants.

GOOSEBERRY MILDEW ORDER.

The Inspector carrying out the duties under the Shops Act, also holds the appointment of Inspector under the Gooseberry Mildew Order. Much good work has been accomplished during the year, and although there has been an increase of 31 acres of Gooseberry plantation, there are a less number of infected acres in proportion to last year, thus showing that the growers have certainly benefited by the advice of your Inspector.

Total number of acres inspected	..	..	81
Total number of acres infected with American mildew	..	..	17

Permission has been given when required to remove bushes for sale.

All necessary steps have been taken, notices served and a report on the work carried out has been submitted to the Board of Agriculture.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year there have been 223 cases of Scarlet Fever ; Diphtheria, 155 ; Enteric Fever, 4 ; Erysipelas, 32 (*Chicken Pox*, 5).

In each case investigations were made, the necessary forms filled in and submitted to your Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of houses disinfected after patients had recovered or removed to the Hospital or died from an infectious disease, including cancer, consumption, measles, 410.

Petroleum licences have been granted for the year, also for the sale of Game.

There are 36 Hackney carriages and 6 Motor cars plying for hire in the district ; these have all been inspected by a special committee, various repairs recommended have been carried out and licenses granted both to proprietors and drivers.

Yours obediently,

DAVID LEWIS BALL,

Cert. Roy. San. Inst.

Bronze Medallist and Prizeman,

City and Guilds, London.

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is a detailed statement and report of the work carried out by your inspectors under the above Act.

During the year the undermentioned premises have been inspected, the necessary specifications of work required have been prepared and served on the respective owners, the majority of notices have been complied with ; there are a few remaining, but are now in hand, these will be completed within the next few days.

					TOTAL.
Nos, 1a to 151, Britton Street..	..	..	..	..	76
Nos. 6 to 140, Britton Street ..	..	..	..	..	67
Nos. 1 to 4, Upper Britton Place	..	..	..	..	4
Nos. 1 to 5, Britton Farm Place	..	..	..	..	5
Nos. 5 to 13, Britton Farm Street	..	..	..	..	9
Nos. 32 to 44, Wyles Street ..	..	..	..	..	7
Nos. 5 to 10, Bridge Road ..	..	..	..	..	6
Nos, 1 to 19, West Street ..	..	..	..	..	10
Nos. 2 to 15, Cavour Cottages ..	..	..	..	..	14
Nos. 1 to 34, Park Road ..	..	..	..	..	42
Nos. 43 to 53, Saxton Street ..	..	..	..	..	6
Nos. 66 to 72, Chaucer Road ..	..	..	..	..	4
Nos. 26 to 36, Cross Street ..	..	..	..	..	6
Nos. 9 to 18, Paget Road ..	..	..	..	..	10
Nos. 1 to 4, Layfield Cottages ..	..	..	..	..	4
Nos. 1 to 7, Sawyer's Alley, Old Brompton ..	..	..	..	..	7
Nos. 1a, 2a, 2b, 2c, Christmas Street ..	..	..	..	..	4
Nos. 34, 29, 12, 12a, and 14, Wood Street, Old Brompton ..	..	..	..	..	5
Nos. 1 and 2, Cottages back of 11, High Street ..	..	..	..	..	2
Nos. 33, 33a, 35, 35a, 43, 30, 30a, 32, 32a, 34, Manor Street	..	..	..	..	10
Nos. 17 to 18a, and cottage at back, Prospect Row ..	..	..	..	..	5
Nos. 10 to 19, May Terrace, Old Brompton ..	..	..	..	..	10
Nos. 1 to 7, and 22 to 26, Nelson Road ..	..	..	..	..	7
Nos. 22 to 30, Nos. 1 and 2 back, and 22, 23 and 25, Church Street, Nos, 1, Forge Lane, 1, 2 and 3, Thatched Cottages, Church Street ..	..	..	..	..	13
Nos. 3 and 4, Broad Alley, Old Brompton ..	..	..	..	..	2
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Gibbs' Cottages, Medway Road ..	..	..	..	..	3
Nos. 4 to 20, River Street ..	..	..	..	..	9
No. 29, Arden Street ..	..	..	..	..	1
No. 11, High Street, Old Brompton ..	..	..	..	..	1
No. 95b, Pier Road ..	..	..	..	..	1
No. 10, back, Westcourt Street, Old Brompton ..	..	..	..	..	1
No. 109, Victoria Street ..	..	..	..	..	1
Cottage Pier Road, adjoining Good Intent ..	..	..	..	..	1
Cottage back of 37, High Street, Old Brompton ..	..	..	..	..	1
Lidsing Cottage, Lidsing ..	..	..	..	..	1

Total 362

The system adopted in making the inspections is as follows :—

Notice is first given to the occupiers that inspection will be made of the premises on a given date between certain hours ; during inspection the following particulars are obtained :

Situation of dwelling house and its number.

Whether freehold or leasehold.

Name and address of owner.

Name of occupier.

If whole or portion of the house is used by one family.

Particulars of rent, per week.

Number of rooms, ground floor, first floor, second floor.

Condition of cellar, whether used as a dwelling.

Date when dwelling house was inspected.

Date of previous inspection and reference number.

State of the dwelling house in regard to the arrangements for preventing the contamination of the water supply.

Closet accommodation.

Drainage.

Condition of the dwelling house in regard to light, the free circulation of air, dampness, cleanliness.

The paving, drainage and sanitary condition of any yard or out-house belonging to or occupied with the dwelling house.

The arrangements for the deposit of refuse or ashes.

The existence of any room which would come within the definition of Sub-section 7 of Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act.

Any defects in other matters which may tend to render the dwelling house dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants.

These results are tabulated and placed on the Index cards so that a complete record is kept of each house visited.

The necessary specifications of the repairs required to place the premises in a sanitary condition are then prepared and served by the order of the Council on the respective owners.

When the defects are of such a nature as to warrant a closing Order, a full detailed report is submitted to the Health Committee and the necessary order made.

The above system of inspection is laid down by the Local Government Board ; the Committee will see that this entails a vast amount of work, and the numerous inspections made will clearly indicate that your officials are constantly employed.

The following is a short summary of some of the repairs and alterations carried out :—

Additional W.C.'s constructed	.. '	18
W.C.'s rebuilt in 9-in. brickwork according to Bye-laws		24
Wash-houses pulled down and rebuilt in 9-in brickwork according to Bye-laws	.. .. ..	8
Cellars concreted	.. .. ..	217
Insanitary sinks removed and replaced with glazed stone-ware sinks	.. .. ..	111
New sinks provided under Section 49 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	.. ..	50
Yards paved with cement concrete	.. .. ..	157
Damp proof course inserted under walls	.. ..	72
Ventilation provided to rooms	.. .. ..	46
Back additions re-pointed	.. .. ..	64
Houses supplied with a separate water supply	..	39

In addition, walls, ceilings, sashes, frames, floors, roofs and other external repairs have been carried out.

The only instance in which the Council had to resort to extreme measures was under Section 15, *re* 34, Wood Street, Old Brompton.

The owner, after receiving the necessary specification of works required, felt aggrieved as to the repairs specified, the remedy was to appeal to the Local Government Board ; instead of this, the owner, carried out only those repairs which he considered necessary. This was reported to the Committee, with the result that tenders were invited from builders to complete the necessary repairs ; this was done, and the amount claimed, £14, has been paid. This action has been the means of bringing other dilatory owners into line.

CLOSING ORDERS SERVED.

Section 17.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Thatched Cottages, Church Street	3
Nos. 3 and 4, Broad Alley, Old Brompton	2
Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, Layfield Cottages, Layfield Road	4
Nos. 1 and 2, Cottages, back of 22, Church Street ..	2
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Gibbs' Cottages, Medway Road ..	3
Nos. 23 and 25, Church Street	2
No. 6, Rebekah Cottages, Pier Road	1
No. 29, Gads Hill	1
No. 95b, Pier Road	1
Cottage rear of 18, Prospect Row, Old Brompton ..	1
Cottage rear of 37, High Street, Old Brompton ..	1
Cottage, Pier Road, adjoining "Good Intent" ..	1
No. 10, back, Westcourt Street	1
No. 11, High Street, Old Brompton	1
Total ..	<hr/> 24 <hr/>

CLOSING ORDERS DETERMINED OR WITHDRAWN AFTER HOUSES
HAD BEEN PLACED IN A HABITABLE CONDITION.

Section 17 (2 and 6).

No. 29, Gads Hill	1
No. 5, Westcourt Street, Old Brompton	1
No. 95b, Pier Road	1
Nos. 43, 45, 47 and 49, Paget Street	4
Total ..	<hr/> 7 <hr/>

DEMOLITION ORDERS SERVED AFTER TIME GIVEN IN CLOSING
ORDERS HAD EXPIRED.

Section 18.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Thatched Cottages, Church Street ..	3
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Gibbs' Cottages, Medway Road ..	3
Nos. 2, 4, and cottage at back, Danes Hill	3
No. 10, back, Westcourt Street, Old Brompton ..	1
Ivy Cottage, Lidsing	1
Total ..	<hr/> 11 <hr/>

HOUSES DEMOLISHED AFTER DEMOLITION ORDERS WERE SERVED.
Section 18 (2).

Nos. 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, and 43a, Church Street ..	7
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Gibbs' Cottages, Medway Road ..	3
Cottage, Pier Road, adjoining " Good Intent " ..	1
	—
Total ..	11
	—

NUMBER OF HOUSES RESPECTING WHICH CLOSING ORDERS HAD
BEEN SERVED UNDER SECTION 17, WHICH WERE DURING THE YEAR
DEMOLISHED BY THE OWNERS WITHOUT ORDERS FOR DEMOLITION
BEING MADE.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Kings Court, Old Brompton ..	5
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Broad Alley, Old Brompton ..	3
Nos. 3 and 5, Chapel Court, Old Brompton ..	2
Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Layfield Cottages, Layfield Road	4
Cottage rear of 18, Prospect Row, Old Brompton ..	1
	—
Total ..	15
	—

NUMBER OF HOUSES RESPECTING WHICH NOTICES WERE SERVED
UNDER SECTION 15 WHICH WERE DEMOLISHED VOLUNTARILY BY
OWNER ON ACCOUNT OF REPAIRS BEING OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO NOT
WARRANT THE EXPENDITURE.

Nos. 4 and 4a, Chapel Court, Old Brompton ..	2
	—
Total ..	2
	—

NUMBER OF HOUSES INSPECTED AND REPORTED UPON AS BEING
UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION, WHICH HAVE BEEN PURCHASED
BY THE COUNCIL AND DEMOLISHED.

Nos. 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 28a, 30, 30a, 32 and 32a, Wood Street, Old Brompton	10
	—
Total ..	10
	—

NUMBER OF HOUSES INSPECTED AND REPORTED UPON AS BEING
UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION, WHICH HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED
BY THE OWNER, THE SITE TO BE PURCHASED BY THE COUNCIL.

Nos. 12, 12a, 14 and 14a, Middle Street, Old Brompton	4
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Total ..	4
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A special report was submitted to the Council on the Old Wooden Chapel, situated in Chapel Court, Middle Street, Old Brompton, under Section 38 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, as an obstructive building, viz., preventing ventilation and sunlight to adjoining buildings and rendering them unfit for human habitation.

The Chapel was demolished, the site cleared, and other improvements carried out without any claim for compensation being made by the owner.

The slum area known as Tadman's Court, Westcourt Street, Beresford Court, Wood Street, and Chapel Court, Middle Street, Old Brompton, has therefore been completely cleared ; the improvements made in this locality are bound to have good results. It is well known that the class of people inhabiting these dwellings are, in the majority of cases, extremely poor and filthy, and are no credit to themselves or to your Borough, as poverty, intemperance and dirt generally go together and are undoubtedly productive of much disease. The question then arises, where are they to go. This matter is becoming more pressing, having in view the number of small houses closed and demolished and the increasing population of your town. Room must be found somewhere, dwellings cannot be constructed by the Council or by private enterprise and let at a rent which these people have been paying, namely, from 2s. to 4s. per week unless the Council were able to purchase land at a very cheap rate and construct flats and let same out in two or three rooms at the rents named.

This problem will always be with us until by means of legislation ample work is found, a living wage paid, people made to live in healthy surroundings and compelled to learn and abide by the elementary rules of Hygiene, viz. :

- Pure food.
- Pure water.
- Pure air.
- Pure dwelling houses.
- Cleanliness.

To bring about these conditions is the aim of the Health Department.

The Committee will see that the majority of notices have been served under the Public Health Act, 1875. The section dealing with repairs under the Housing and Town Planning Act only refers to houses occupied since the date of the Act, should, however, the premises be unfit for human habitation, the section dealing with Closing and Demolition Orders embraces all property before or after the Act was passed.

SUMMARY.

The number of houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	362
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The number of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	24
The number of dwelling houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders ..	338
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Total	362
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Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to making of Closing Orders	24
The number of Closing Orders made	24
The number of dwelling houses, which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put in a fit state for human habitation	7
The number of notices served under Section 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act (demolition orders) ..	11
The number of houses demolished	42
The number of notices served under Section 15 of the Housing and Town Planning Act (repairs)	26
The number of notices served under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875 (repairs)	312
The number of notices served under Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875 (without sufficient W.C. accommodation)	19
The number of notices served under Section 49 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (without a proper sink)	50

The general character of the defects found to exist :—

Insufficient water supply.
 Dangerous back additions.
 Insufficient W.C. accommodation.
 Damp walls.
 No damp proof course.
 Defective roofs, floors, sashes, frames, doors, stairs, external
 brickwork and weatherboarding, paving and drains.
 Dirty and defective walls and ceilings.
 Damp cellars.
 Insufficient ventilation to rooms.

During the last three years the following work has been accomplished under the Act :—

Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	561
Number of closing orders served	..	..	..	..	..	100
Number of Demolition Orders served	..	..	..	..	..	46
Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	77
Number of Closing Orders withdrawn or determined after houses have been made fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	26
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.	..	..	..	..	..	461

Taking the total number of houses in your Borough at the low figure of 10,000, and making as we are, about 350 visits a year, assuming the Borough does not develop in the future, it will take the Health Department over twenty-eight years to make a systematic inspection of your district.

I can honestly assure the Committee that it is impossible to do more work with the present staff at my disposal, consequently the rate of progress is very slow.

As already mentioned in the report, one of the Assistant Inspectors, Mr. White, also carries out the duties of Inspector under the Shops Acts and Street Inspector ; these duties take up a great deal of time. The other Assistant, Mr. Arnold, has his time fully occupied in investigating infectious diseases and the disinfecting of premises, etc., and taking into consideration the area of your district and the many visits which have to be paid to Wigmore,

Hempstead and Twydall, the present staff is insufficient to carry out the work.

Taking the population of the Borough at 54,000, the following staff is required :—

One Inspector.

Two Assistant Inspectors.

One man to disinfect and to assist in drain testing, etc.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Health Committee for their kindness to me during the three years I have been here, and at the same time to request them to carefully consider the recommendations in this report.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

DAVID LEWIS BALL,

Cert. Royal San. Inst.

Bronze Medallist and Prizeman,

City and Guilds, London.